

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 INT-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 L-03 /080 W

-----077360 020409Z /61

R 011822Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5202

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USNATO

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 04032

USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EEC, UR, EFIS

SUBJ: EC/SOVIET FISHERY RELATIONS

REFS: (A) 77 BRUSSELS 16971; (B) 77 BRUSSELS 12976;

(C) 77 BRUSSELS 13681

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED IN CONFIDENCE BY EC COMMISSION FISHERY OFFICIAL THAT DIALOGUE IN SUSPENDED EC/SOVIET FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY RESUMED. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE EC SUBMITTED TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN MID-JANUARY A FISHING PLAN FOR 122 VESSELS TO OPERATE IN THE BARENTS SEA, BASED UPON HISTORIC CATCH LEVELS FOR EC MEMBER STATE FLEETS (BRITISH, GERMAN, AND FRENCH); THIS PLAN WAS DEvised IN SUCH A WAY THAT, NO MATTER WHAT NUMBER OF EC VESSELS THE SOVIETS MIGHT ALLOW

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TO FISH, PROPORTIONAL DIVISION OF ACTIVITY AMONG THE THREE MEMBER STATES WOULD ALSO REFLECT TRADITIONAL FISHING PATTERNS. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THIS PLAN WAS SUBMITTED LARGELY AS A RESULT OF UK INSISTENCE AT NOVEMBER 1977 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL (REF A) THAT THE COMMUNITY MAKE AN EFFORT TO BRING THE SOVIETS BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, WITH THE AIM OF CONCLUDING A FRAMEWORK

FISHERY AGREEMENT AND REGAINING ACCESS FOR EC VESSELS TO SOVIET WATERS IN THE BARENTS SEA.

2. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH COMMISSION EXTERNAL FISHERIES DIRECTOR SIMONNET ON FEBRUARY 17, AT WHICH TIME HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE EC NOTE AND EXPRESSED SOME CONFUSION OVER ITS CONTENTS. SOVIET OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED, IN PARTICULAR, THAT EC VESSELS COULD NOT FISH IN SOVIET WATERS WITHOUT LICENSES AND THAT SUCH LICENSES COULD NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, SIMONNET RESPONDED THAT THE COMMUNITY DOES NOT CONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS TO BE BROKEN OFF, ONLY SUSPENDED, AND THAT IT STILL HOPES TO RESUME TALKS. SOVIET OFFICIAL THEN INDICATED THAT THE EC FISHING PLAN IS UNDER STUDY IN MOSCOW.

3. OUR SOURCE WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE PORTENT OF THIS FIRST DEVELOPMENT SINCE SOVIETS WERE CUT OFF FROM EC WATERS LAST SEPTEMBER (REF B). HE SAID THAT, IN COMMISSION VIEW, NEXT MOVE IS CLEARLY WITH MOSCOW. COMMISSION HAS, IN ANY CASE, NOT MODIFIED ITS PUBLICLY STATED POSITION (REF C) THAT EC WILL RESUME SUSPENDED TALKS ON FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ONLY IF THE USSR REVIEWS ITS POSITION ON EC ACCESS TO THE BARENTS SEA FISHERY ZONE. HINTON
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